

Log Scaling and Grading in British Columbia.

By Andrew Haslam, Vancouver, B.C., in Canada Lumberman.

The Doyle rule was used in British Columbia previous to 1902, and each mill had its own scaler, who scaled all the logs bought or logged for the mill. The Government appointed several scalers without salary, that could be called on in case of dispute. The system was not satisfactory, and gave rise to a great many disputes that were difficult of settlement.

In 1901 the Government appointed a committee to formulate a log scale that would correct the errors of the Doyle rule. The committee were Messrs. Alexander, King, and the writer. Mr. Alexander represented the mills, Mr. King the loggers, and the writer the Government interest. This committee ignored all previous rules and to arrive at an accurate result had a drawing made of the end of each size of log from twelve inches diameter to 73 inches, including both. The drawing was made showing a slab three-fourths of an inch thick on each of the four sides. Inside of the slab a kerf three-eighths of an inch, then the log inside that was laid off in inch boards and three-eighths of an inch kerf alternately. Everything three inches and over in width was calculated in the contents, but under was not.

Logs that are not round are measured two ways, and the mean diameter on the small end is taken for calculating the contents of the log up to forty feet long. Over forty feet there is an increase in the diameter of one inch for each ten feet over forty feet.

The rule made on this base was legalized by an act of the legislature in 1902 and was named the "British Columbia Log Scale," and the use of it made compulsory west of the Cas-

cade Range Mountains. East of this the Doyle was legal until July 1st, 1909. The British Columbia log scale is now legal all over the province.

The old method of allowing the mills to have their own scaler was legal until July 1st, 1906, when the Government appointed a supervisor and scalers to do the work west of the Cascade Range of mountains. In making these appointments the Government pays a regular monthly salary and charges five cents per thousand feet for all scaling, or, if called for, grading. The mill is supposed to pay all the scaling fees, but charges the logger one-half.

When scalers are required, there is an order sent to the supervisor's office, who sends out the first scaler reporting after receipt of the order. In this way neither the millman nor the logger knows who will be the scaler. Either party has a right to demand a rescale. The scaler who does the rescaling is not allowed to make up his boom; he simply sets down the length and diameter of the log and the volume is calculated in the office of the supervisor, so that there can be no collusion between scalers. If the rescale is within three per cent. of the original scale it is held to verify the original. If it is over three per cent., there is another scale by one of the scalers or by the acting supervisor. The supervisor's or assistant's scale is final and there is no appeal from it.

In August, 1906, the loggers and millmen met and agreed on rules for grading all logs, except cedar. The Government consented to the use of these rules, which gives them a permanency in so far as the Government's consent is concerned, but